

CMAQ Project Selection Committee June 22, 2000
Meeting Agreements

1. Jack Groner (Metra) requested that \$3,200,000.00 (federal) in CMAQ funds for the Southwest service improvements be reprogrammed for right-of-way acquisition for the Belmont Road Railroad grade separation project in Downers Grove. The route to be used by the Southwest service into downtown Chicago is in doubt, leaving the Southwest Service CMAQ project in limbo. Mr. Groner noted that the funds might lapse soon. On the other hand, Mr. Groner noted the need for the Belmont Rd. project. He also noted that engineering is underway, and that the project has widespread support and received FY2000 CMAQ funding. By reprogramming the funds, Metra's FY 2001 request for funds for the Belmont Rd project will be withdrawn.

Mr. Blankenhorn questioned the need to act on this issue at this time, since we are now developing an FY 01 program. The committee discussed the impact of the FTA fund lapse time frame (3+1 years), and specifically the procedures to recapture lapsed funds. Metra's Southwest Service funds are within the "3 plus 1" time period when grant funds can be reobligated. *The committee agreed that any transit project reobligation must be approved by the CMAQ Project Selection Committee.* Mr. Blankenhorn requested that there be a discussion/clarification of deobligated and lapsing funds in the future.

On Mr. Buehler's motion, seconded by Ms. Hamilton, the committee agreed unanimously to reprogram \$3,200,000.00 in CMAQ funds from Southwest service improvements for the Belmont Rd. project.

2. Item two on the agenda (CTA reprogramming of FY 95 CMAQ dollars) was not discussed. A written summary will be provided in the future. Ms. Hamilton noted that deobligated transit funds should be reprogrammed for other transit projects and not be allowed to lapse.
3. A summary of responses to FY 00 CMAQ Transit Project Follow-ups was distributed. No action was requested, as this was a discussion item only. Any questions in the future regarding the summary are to be referred to Tom Murtha.

Mr. Rogers noted that while the committee has always considered the "readiness" of a project, the air quality benefits have taken precedent. As a result, projects with potential delays have been selected. *The committee requested project readiness be specifically listed in project ranking sheets used by the committee.*

4. The proposed schedule for FY 2001 CMAQ program was reviewed and a project selection committee meeting was set for August 4th at 11:30 (immediately after the Work Program Committee meeting).

The above summary is based on staff meeting notes. Anyone who takes exception to the information contained in this summary should forward comments to CATS within one week of the submission date noted below.

Summary submitted by Shannon Cairns on June 23, 2000.